

page bill, H.R. 3962, still cuts Medicare by one-half trillion dollars to our seniors and creates a new entitlement program.

The bill provides disincentives to States and punishes them if they impose caps on noneconomic damages or limits contingency fees to trial lawyers in medical liability cases. This takes us backwards, not forwards.

There is a job-crushing employer mandate and tax increases on small businesses in the form of surtaxes on income. This is a job killer, make no mistake.

There is a medical device tax that punishes innovation and imperils manufacturing jobs at companies like B. Braun and Olympus in my congressional district. In fact, many of them refer to this tax as the death tax. When is enough enough?

LET US GO FORWARD; LET US NOT GO BACKWARD

(Mr. McCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, we do not live on a government-run globe; we live in a people-powered world. The massive, radical change that is presented by the health care bill brought forward by this majority constitutes the policies of the past.

Within the communications revolution in the globalized marketplace, one thing is certain: human beings, at a greater extent than at any other time in history, are now able to control more of their lives and their own decisions. True health care reform must not resist these times; they must meld with these times. We need patient-centered wellness through transparency, technology, and a humane and compassionate understanding and help for our fellow citizens. This bill will not do it.

Fundamentally, this bill will bury the American people beneath Big Government at the very time they have a greater chance of empowering themselves and making their own decisions. Let us go forward; let us not go backward.

REPUBLICANS HAVE A BILL

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we heard a good friend across the aisle just a little bit ago say, Hey, where is the Republican bill? You don't have one scored by CBO? Well, I'm sure he didn't know, but some of us have bills, we have many bills. I've been trying for 2½ months to get a score from CBO, but I've been shut out. I haven't been able to get a score. And it is a bill that will give coverage to everyone; it will make sure seniors have complete coverage like they've never had before; it would be a savings for people.

But the Democrats have a bill. They cut a deal with pharmaceuticals, forc-

ing people with HSA to buy prescriptions instead of over the counter, cut a deal with some insurance companies so they will have liability limitations, cut a deal where States will be bribed to eliminate caps on attorneys' fees and caps on damages, cut a deal with unions. It appears that there's not adequate requirements for identification, then it's a deal for illegals, and also for abortion.

This is not the bill we should be supporting. Let's get a new bill. We've got it.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, they say the definition of insanity is trying the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result, which perfectly describes the House Democrats' health care reform bill.

For months now, I have been trying to explain in every forum possible how this bill is taking the worst parts of the universal health programs in Tennessee and Massachusetts and combining them into one monstrosity of a program. Unfortunately, passing theory that sounds good but has failed is more important to our Democratic colleagues than actually getting reforms that work.

This is why it matters: the reforms being proposed will decrease access, decrease quality and increase cost of care for the vast majority of Americans. I can say this unequivocally as a physician and as a Tennessee resident who has experienced TennCare firsthand. Small businesses that are dealing with the worst recession in years will have to lay off workers and cut back on wages to deal with these new mandates. Individuals who are scrimping and saving to get by will see their taxes and costs increase.

Some good will come of this bill, but the bad results that we know from experience will happen should be reason enough to scrap this bill and try to agree on a bipartisan bill that will work.

□ 1400

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, one of the most troubling realities of the Nancy Pelosi health care bill is a new tax on medical devices. The so-called wheelchair tax imposes a new 2.5 percent tax increase at the very time American families don't need and don't want a tax increase.

Yes, the Pelosi bill includes a new 2.5 percent excise tax on the sale of medical devices in the United States. It will cover everything from bandages to

prosthetics, from glucose monitors to crutches, from hearing aids to pacemakers, and even thermometers to syringes.

Weren't we told that there wouldn't be even one dime—not one dime—of a tax increase for those earning less than \$250,000 a year?

This bill adds a tax increase that will hit each and every American. It will affect jobs in this country, and it will affect your ability to buy the very things that you need for your children, for your parents, for your own families.

Think about all of the medical devices that you use within your family.

H.R. 3962—THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Speaker PELOSI's government takeover of health care.

This bill, which weighs in at nearly 2,000 pages and at more than 20 pounds, will raise taxes on individuals and small businesses, cut health care for seniors, raise health care premiums, ration care, and give Federal bureaucrats more power over decisions that should be made by our constituents and by their doctors. The bill raises taxes by \$730 billion, and it costs nearly \$1.3 trillion. We literally cannot afford this government takeover of health care. There is a better way.

We should, instead, be lowering health care costs by enacting medical liability reform, strengthening association health plans, allowing the purchase of health insurance across State lines, and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal health care programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose Speaker PELOSI's health care bill.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to discuss the health care bill, this monstrous health care bill, one thing is clear: American families simply cannot afford this attempt at a government takeover of health care.

The proposed plan is the wrong prescription for our country. This monstrous piece of legislation is a prescription for tax increases and for job loss, but most importantly and unfortunately, with the government's dictating health care terms and choices, we're going to see a lower standard of care for our families.

By forcing this mammoth overhaul on hardworking Americans, this majority is hoping to create a health care system that increases taxes on small businesses, that reduces benefits for